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Tenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology: Washington, 1893.

This volume is devoted to the picture-writing of the American Indians, and is the crowning work of Colonel Garrick Mallery's life. It is very seldom that a man in contemplating his studies may say on laying down his pen, they are finished.

Colonel Mallery's observations on pictography and sign language began simultaneously during his military service among the Dakotas. He then formed the hypothesis that gesture-speech, though never exclusive of oral speech in the expression and transmittal of ideas, was developed into fitness for general and practical use among early men before oral speech had advanced so as to form a system. This is paraphrased, that at a supposed period in the history of man gesture-speech often was used independent of oral language, when among the same men oral speech was inadequate without concomitant and explanatory gestures. The gestures were at first purely ideographic, when not merely pantomimic; of course they were transient, and the attempt to make them durable for records, notices, messages, etc., was by ideographic markings and devices—*i. e.*, pictographs. This hypothesis was strengthened by observing some glyphs bearing skeleton outlines of gestures with apparently the same significance as that which the gestures indicated. The supposed era therefore produced, by gestures, idea-speaking, and, by pictographs, idea-writing. When oral language advanced it was much more conventional, the sounds being far less than gestures, directly expressive of ideas; indeed, except in a few cases of onomatopœia, the sense cannot be deduced from the sound. Written syllabaries and alphabets, being applied only to designate sounds, were still more conventional and may be styled sound-writing as contrasted with picture or idea writing; yet the devices used in syllabaries and alphabets to express sound were often the same which had earlier been used in pictographs, and thus had become familiar. The observed facts suggested that in picture-writing of North American Indians and other races the beginnings of our modern manuscripts and principal books were to be found. This cause of observation and reflection led to the studies presented in this volume, in preparing which, however, collateral matters came into view.

In the explanation of these views Colonel Mallery has with great diligence for many years ransacked the earth for material, and it is presented in the book before us in a very practical form. The author, having devoted a great deal of attention during his early years to literary matters, gives the reader the benefit of his style in the text.

The author's modesty is also apparent, since it would be impossible to find the first personal pronoun, except as a quotation, in all these pages. Another literary feature of the book which commends itself is the absence of foot-notes and obtrusive references of authorities. The authors quoted, together with their works, are given in an appendix and referred to in the text by convenient numbers. It is for the reader to decide whether, in thus giving to the book a more tasteful literary form, the author has not put the reader to considerable trouble in referring backward and forward from text to list.

The plan followed by Colonel Mallery is not without precedent in the volumes of very distinguished authors. Colonel Mallery has also wisely abstained from philosophizing too extensively in this work, which is rather a descriptive than philosophic production. The enormous mass of material gathered together will make it possible for those who take up the subject in the future to draw any conclusions they may please therefrom.

In the prompt publication of this material the Bureau of Ethnology has not only done the world a favor, but built a lasting monument to Colonel Mallery, who had scarcely laid down his pen ere he was called away from his earthly labors.

O. T. MASON.

The Tusayan New Fire Ceremony. By Dr. J. Walter Fewkes. Hemenway Expedition. Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, vol. xxvi, pp. 422-458.

Dr. Fewkes has given in this paper a very satisfactory account of the "new fire ceremony" of the Hopi. While a great deal has been written upon the occurrence of this world-wide ceremony in other countries it has been only cursorily noticed in America. Here it has survived, perhaps, in a fragmentary state